

Using Your New Meter as Part of your Water Conservation Plan

Reading the new meter: If your meter is located in an easily accessible location, it can become a valuable tool in monitoring water usage and finding leaks. First, the right most digit on the meter always stays at zero. The second digit from the right measures gallons in increments of 10. Third digit measures gallons in increments of 100 gallons, and so forth. The red sweep hand on the dial face measures 10 gallons per full revolution. The meter face is marked in .10 gallon increments so that very small changes in use can be measured via the sweep hand. The small red dial is very sensitive and if it is not moving when you aren't using water means there are no leaks.

Here are some water conservation tips to help you manage your water usage...

If you have a lawn chances are it is your biggest water user (inside or out). Typically at least 50% of all water used is consumed outdoors. Bathrooms claim nearly 75% of the water used indoors. Focus most of your water conservation on the big users.

OUTSIDE WATER USE:

Lawn: -Adjust sprinklers so they only water your lawn (not your house, sidewalks, gutter, etc.).

-Do not water on windy days, after a rain, or during the heat of the day. You will lose a significant amount of your water to evaporation. -Replace grass with water drought vegetation. -Water your lawn every 3rd or 4th day. -Adjust irrigation schedule to changes in seasonal water demands (install a automatic timer). - Raise mower blade to at least 3 inches high or higher (close cut grass makes the roots work harder requiring more water).

Landscaping: -Use mulch to reduce evaporation on bedding plants. -Use xeriscape landscaping (drought tolerant plants use much less water and can be very compatible with our arid vegetation and climate).

Washing Vehicles: -If you wash your vehicles in your drive an excellent way of conserving water is to always use a shut-off nozzle. Spray your car down, shut off the hose and then soap your vehicle from a bucket. Rinse, your done. You can wash your car using just a few gallons.

Drive Way Cleaning: -Use a broom to clean your driveway, not water.

INSIDE WATER USE:

-Toilets: check your toilet(s) to make sure each one is not leaking water from the tank into the bowl when not in use. Even a small leak wastes a good amount of water over time. Simply put a few drops of a dark food dye in your tank. If it starts to show up in the toilet bowl in 30 minutes then your toilet is wasting water. A new toilet flapper is in order to solve the problem. An easy fix. After the test, flush, the dye can stain the bowl.

-Faucets: if you have any faucets that are leaking a simple repair will save you money. Use faucet aerators with flow restrictors to slow water flow (especially effective with children in the house).

-Showers: we all like to take nice long hot showers. But, replacing your older shower nozzles with a new low flow nozzle will save a lot of water in the shower.

-Brushing Your Teeth: never let the water run while you brush your teeth. Wet your brush, shut off the faucet, brush, rinse. You would be surprised how much water flows down the drain while brushing.

-Excess Water Uses: never pour water down the drain when it can be used to water indoor plants or household cleaning.

Be water wise. Let's all be good citizens and use our water resource well.